

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Warm Spaces open their doors

The Corn Exchange is proud to announce that they have been designated as an official Warm Space this winter.

HDC confirmed the list of places this week as communities across the county come together to help support people that face a challenging time over winter this year.

In St Ives, Warm Places include St Ives Library at 4 Library Row next to Waitrose, St Ives One Leisure Centre Cafe at Westwood Road and St Ives Corn Exchange, The Pavement, Market Hill. The Corn Exchange will be open until 5pm each day and offers comfortable surroundings in the Riverport café bar.

There will be the opportunity to engage in board games, jigsaw puzzles, and an afternoon movie on the coffee shop giant TV. There is also a book swap or you can just sit comfortably on a sofa and read the paper with a quality coffee.

Whatever you prefer the Corn exchange is offering the place to be comfortable among friends. If you know of anybody that may enjoy



this please make sure you let them know where to come. The new extended hours will start soon, so please watch out for details.

## Town Council consider their response

St Ives Town Council discussed the Council's response to the Draft Masterplan last Wednesday and are expected to provide their comments to HDC based on the views expressed by residents.

These controversial proposals have largely been condemned on several grounds including the accuracy of the data used, the lack of consultation during the process and for the schemes that would change St Ives beyond recognition.

It will be interesting to see the Town Council's response, especially as their briefing paper for wednesday's meeting seemed to suggest that there was support for some of the proposals.

The community group, St Ives Town Team have issued their response to the Masterplan, which was sent to councillors before their meeting. The Town Team have also issued their proposals for improving St Ives in 'A Vision of St Ives',

which we covered in last weeks *Riverporter*. You can see both the Town Team *Response* and *Vision* documents which are available in the Riverport Café Bar or on their website at: [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

### About the money

Speaking with HDC *The Riverporter* has been told that the budget for producing the Masterplan is £100,000 per town (i.e. £300k in total for Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives).

We can also confirm that £1 million was allocated to each town, some of which has been used on the 'Accelerated Program' that included toilet refurbishment, cycle hubs, litter bins and parklets.

'This was very much about quick interventions in response to Covid recovery' said an HDC spokesperson, but they didn't know how much of the £1 million is left.



## Theatre Artz hit the big time

A group of 31 students aged from 7 to 21 performed at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Sunday 30th October. The group had been working hard in preparation for this incredible opportunity and it was fantastic to see them shine on a West End stage!

Principal Rachel Besley choreographed the two routines for the students and the brilliant dances and dazzling costumes certainly made them look the part! Theatre Artz is a local dance school offering dance classes for ages 3+ in St Ives, Godmanchester and Needingworth. It is a member of the British Theatre Dance Association and offers many performance opportunities throughout the year. If you wish to go along for a free trial you can contact them via their website at: [www.theatreartz.co.uk](http://www.theatreartz.co.uk)

## How to win a £50 Townrow Voucher?

Using the Trail Map visit the places highlighted and collect at least 20 stickers to complete the trail. The competition starts in St Ives on Saturday 19th November and is for children under the age of 12 years by 17/12/2022. You can download a copy of this Trail Map and see more details at: [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

## Snowman Festival 2022

Come to The Old Riverport this Christmas and enjoy all the fun of the Snowman Festival and have a chance to win fabulous prizes

Monday 14 November Snowman start to appear throughout the Town  
 Saturday 19th November Snowman Trail begins  
 Saturday 3 December Santa & Chief Snowman arrive 1 pm on The Quay  
 Monday 19 December Snowman Festival Trail Draw takes place along with the awards for the best Snowman Displays

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The Town Team  
 & St Ives  
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE



The evening of Saturday 29th October saw a fun event when our local 'Witcher', Michael Sumner conducted a ghost walk around St Ives. Michael and his team led around 40 people on a route, telling tales of some of the town's spooky history and how some long past residents refuse to lie down quietly. There was no charge for the tour but the hat was passed around to raise a few pounds for the Corn Exchange ... Thank you Michael, Erik hasn't slept since!

## Top Tips for . . . Saving Money, Getting Creative & Reducing Waste This Christmas

The Hunts Waste Busters believe in sustainable living, making minor changes to reduce our carbon footprint. Christmas is a time where our waste increases dramatically, with the bulk, ending up in landfill. We have compiled a few thought-provoking ideas, that can assist you in reducing your waste this Christmas, in addition to saving money and creating memories.

### Buy Pre-Loved

There is an abundance of ways to seek presents that are pre-loved, finding the ideal gift at a fraction of the price. Support local charities or make use of modern websites, apps or local buy and sell pages, saving you money and rehoming a good product whilst reducing the amount of unwanted gifts/clothing sent to landfill. The best present may be right around the corner from you . . .

### Creative Menu

Save money by utilising end of life food or leftovers to create a unique meal, reducing your food waste as well as trying something new. The internet is full of festive food ideas and recipes with the ability to input your available ingredients to make a dish that not only tickles the tastebuds but impresses guests with your cooking skills. If you don't get through it all, freeze it for a later date, giving you a much-needed night off cooking.

*\*Please remember all food waste including peelings and even bones, can be put into your garden waste bin, which is processed for composting.*

### Make Your Own Decorations

You may find the least expensive way to decorate is right under your nose, with items such as twigs, fir cones, and holly and willow wreaths being just some of the examples, our great outdoors has to offer, to create the ultimate in Christmas decorations. Many examples, tutorials and inspirational ideas can be found online, offering a great conversation starter for any guests.

### Make Your Own Reusable Calendar

Advent calendars are a major contributor to plastic waste over the festive period, with the bulk having plastic inserts that cannot be recycled with ease. Say NO to disposable and YES to reusable, making your own tasty treats, offer another fun activity for children or an opportunity to show off your creative side.

### Recycle, Recycle and Recycle

Always check if what you are throwing away can be recycled. For any items not recyclable through your recycling bin, check your local supermarket, most have dedicated recycle points for items such as soft plastics and batteries, making it easy to bring with you when doing your food shop. In the case of many electrical stores, they will also accept e-waste such as TV's, PC's, Laptops and phones.

*\*Placing batteries in your kerbside bins can cause fires in the collection vehicles.*

**Inspired? We hope you are . . .** every small change makes a difference to our environment. All we can ask this year is to THINK, ACT, CHANGE and assist us in reducing waste, maximising recycling and creating a sustainable Christmas ethic that can live on for generations.

From all the Hunts Waste Busters Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Sustainable New Year.

## Next meeting to focus on litter

**W**e all know that litter is a blight on our streets, and is contributing to pollution both locally and globally.

St Ives Against Rubbish (STAR), our local Campaign was launched in 2020 by St Ives EcoAction and St Ives in Bloom in partnership with St Ives Rotary Club, St Ives Town Council and the Huntingdonshire Green Party, and has aims to eradicate litter from our local public spaces.

Litter and littering behaviours are complex issues, and the STAR Campaign has objectives to understand both the causes of litter and littering behaviours as well as help to identify and implement solutions. Since 2020 we have also been working with Huntingdonshire District Council who would now like to engage more deeply with us to run trials across the district to further reduce the impact litter has on our environment.

Specifically, they would like to seek our help in splitting out the non-recyclable grot from the recyclable litter that is collected, and hence further reduce the amount that goes into landfill.

The focus of our next regular Climate Café will therefore be litter, including what more we can do to reduce it, including reducing the amount the goes into landfill. We would like to invite all existing or potential STAR pickers to join us for free refreshments, and for us to say thank you, as well as to raise awareness of local litter issues and encourage more residents to get behind the STAR campaign.

All are welcome to join us on Saturday 19th November, 10-12pm at St Ives Methodist Church to celebrate our successes as well as to increase our efforts. Please note a change of venue from our usual location of St Ives Free Church. Refreshments will be served.

**Helen Dye, St Ives EcoAction Organiser**



Join us for our next Climate Café when we will be talking all things rubbish with Hunts chief Waster Buster, Danette O'Hara

We will also take the opportunity to review nearly two years of the STAR campaign, to publicly thank all of our local STAR pickers, and to set a challenge for 2023. Refreshments will be provided.

## Climate Café

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November

10am - 12pm

St Ives Methodist Church,  
The Waits, St Ives



The future of the planet is in our hands...

## Mayor opens Divine Canine Groomers



Councillor Phillip Pope, Mayor of St Ives was on hand last week to help Anna Chambers open her dog grooming salon at 36 East Street.

A previous dog grooming business, 'Canine

Central', was located here. You can contact Anna at: [divinecanine.grooming@yahoo.com](mailto:divinecanine.grooming@yahoo.com)

*Pictured are left to right: Sharon, Lizzie, Grace, Anna and husband Jake with Mayor Phil.*

## Engage in the Afternoon...

**Don't stay home in the cold, come along and Engage with us here at St Ives Library!**

### What is 'Engage'?

Engage is a monthly opportunity to come along and listen to a variety of speakers talking passionately about their chosen subject. So far we have hosted some fascinating talks about Magpas, Waitrose, The Pathfinder Force, and many more.

Coming up we have Family History, Houghton Mill, and even the Holocaust Educational Trust.

### When does it take place?

Talks will always take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm. The events are FREE, and you can reserve a place by emailing [StIves.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:StIves.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Or ring us on 0345 045 5225 Or simply pop into the Library and ask.

## Did you know St Ives has Pillboxes?

**P**illboxes were military bunkers built during World War II between 1940 and 1941. They were built in strategic places near rivers, railways and road junctions, creating a network of defences across Great Britain.

28,000 pill boxes were built, and about a fifth still survive. The construction was typically in concrete, sometimes with bricks externally which was used as shuttering during the construction. They came in different shapes and sizes, most commonly in hexagonal and octagonal shapes. The largest number of pill boxes are found in the South-East of England closest to the threat of German invaders and there are at least two in St Ives. The most obvious one is near the Park & Ride. See the picture below.

**There is a second one at the Church end of The Waits by the entrance to the Churchyard** (see picture top right).

It is overgrown and is situated by the wall that has been propped up by wooden planking (see picture bottom right). Despite us highlighting the danger, and several councillors trying to get something done, it remains an eyesore and a potential site for a serious incident, should someone be sitting on the bench, if or when the wall collapses.

It is also sad that this Pillbox, an important relic from World War 2 is in this state, rather than being preserved. It is one of the stranger locations for one. Presumably it was built here to guard against the enemy arriving by boat along the backwater!





Erik's  
homage  
to our  
new  
King.



having your say ...

# The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

**Get it off your chest,  
email Erik at:  
editor@theriverporter.uk**

## OTHER NEWS

### Dr Nik off for major heart surgery

The Combined Authority Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson will take 3 months leave for ongoing treatment at the Royal Papworth Hospital. Councillor Anna Smith, Leader of Cambridge City Council will take over as Deputy Mayor in Nik's absence. Nik told *The Riverporter* that he is need of his beloved NHS. He said 'The team around me are fantastic and very caring. I'll be back before you know it'. We hope he is and that the treatment is completely successful.



### MD of HDC, Jo Lancaster to retire?

*The Riverporter* has been told that the District Council's Managing Director Joanne Lancaster, who lives in St Ives, has decided to retire to spend more time with her family. Mrs Lancaster has been in the £140,000+ post since 2013. She studied geography at Exeter University between 1983 and 1986 and has a Masters degree from Birmingham University. Earlier this year she was awarded **The Planner Woman of Influence** by the Royal Planning Institute. HDC have yet to confirm this news.



### IOPC appealing for witnesses

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is appealing for witnesses to a collision that happened in the Longstowe area of Cambridgeshire last Thursday (3 November), involving a police vehicle and a car - a Citroen DS3 - belonging to a member of the public. The incident occurred around 1.30 pm on the A1198.

The driver of the Citroen, a 17-year-old male, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The driver of the police vehicle was also taken to hospital having sustained injuries. IOPC regional director Graham Beesley said: 'We are appealing for anyone to come forward who may have witnessed any part of this incident. It is important that we establish exactly what occurred.' **Anyone with information is asked to call 0300 303 5733 or email longstowerti@policeconduct.gov.uk as soon as possible.**

### Looking for something to do?

The St Ives Corn Exchange is looking for volunteers to help run and look after our wonderful facility, regular visitors and hirers. After the Corn Exchange was saved in 2010 it was regularly supported by many local people that helped in all manner of ways to assist in running the facility. These days the board of directors still remain unpaid volunteers, and they oversee a small, dedicated team of employed staff, but modern times take their financial toll and running costs are soaring.

Many of our past volunteers are now retired or have moved away and so the Cornex Team are looking for people that may have a few hours free each week to help with a list of tasks that include helping in the coffee shop, cleaning, meeting and greeting at events, preparing rooms for hirers, or setting up equipment. Full training will be given. This is a fun team to work with. If you would like to know more call in and speak to events manager Kate or call 01480 496955

### Riverport is popular now

Back in 2014 the Town Council adopted the Old Riverport title for the conservation area of the town to recognise the importance of St Ives as a river port for several centuries. It was quite controversial with some people thinking that we had changed the name of roads and even the town. Since then a number of businesses have adopted Riverport in their name including Riverport Scaffolding (right) seen this week.



### Vandals strike in town

It seems that Saturday nights can still bring out the worst in some people. The Guinot Spa (Optimum Beauty) in Freechurch Passage has only just completed a remodelling of their premises. They always have really excellent window displays but last Saturday saw mindless vandalism smash their front window. It was only the fact that the glass was laminated that it prevented more serious damage. Freechurch passage has cameras so it's expected that the police will have a nice portrait of the culprit.



**Dear Erik,**  
**Abuozing the Pews**  
Another Booze in the Pews in our Parish Church has come and gone. Here is a verse to remember this one by.  
Profanity with impunity  
Amid pews and piscina:  
Pints 'stead of psalms and prayer books,  
Serving at the bar  
'Stead of serving at the altar.  
Mine-hosts or Money-changers?  
Whatever!  
All told, an abject aspect,  
A future too frightful to foretell?  
**Dobermann**

**Dear Erik,**  
**Do blokes poop in the woods?**  
My wife and I saw one of your four legged friends the other day while taking a stroll in the woods behind Berman park. Your friend was well behaved, but next to him we spotted a bare behind amongst the trees. We were rather shocked to realise that it belonged to his owner, a well dressed gentleman who was relieving himself there, only yards away from the Thicket path. He seemed as shocked to see us as we were him. We were wondering whether any other residents had had a similar experience.  
**Yours truly, Fellwanderer**

**Email editor@theriverporter.uk to order a copy of this 490 page thriller £15 available 16 December.**

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## The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

# The History of St Ives

Five years that shook the world ...  
a Riverporter Special  
every issue from  
January 2018 to December 2022

CHRISTMAS FAIR  
WITH  
THE SAINTS  
CRAFTERS  
SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2022  
09.30AM - 3.30PM  
ADMISSION FREE  
TOMBOLA & CAFE BY  
HUNTS SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

**Erik attends Thicket Dog Training School**

Snifferdog School  
Identify the following  
Cockapoo, Cavapoo,  
Shihpoo, Pekeapoo  
and Blokepoo

## After the crash - just red tape

The Waits suffered at the hand of speeding drivers in 2018 when a police car crashed chasing criminals. The repair took ages, so how long before this damage is repaired? This damage is much greater with several posts shattered.

The whole area looks very unloved with weeds sprouting everywhere and broken metal left lying around.

Rumours that the driver thought that he could make a U-turn here proved false.

**COPE**  
Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise

**Next Meeting Thursday November 17th 2 to 4pm**  
**St Ives Corn Exchange - with a biscuit and tea/coffee**  
**SPEAKER - JOHN DEVINE - PRESENTER and INTERVIEWER at RADIO CAMBRIDGESHIRE.**

John, who has been to St Ives many times to discuss various topics with local residents, will talk to us about his work with Radio Cambridgeshire. The venue has been chosen to allow social distancing between attendees. £2.00 Entry per meeting. Raffle £1 per ticket [optional].

HYPERION

## Entries Invited for Our Next Fine Art Sale on 26th November



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale

Late 19thC Bronze vase with dog of fove applied  
handles and flared base

Sold £280



Local Interest; Collection of Local  
Codd and other bottles inc. Jordan  
and Addington of St Neots pottery  
bottle, Sharp & Sons etc

Sold £220

Georgian Mahogany Hall table with gallery  
and single drawer

Sold £220



Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH  
[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140



# Calendar of events 2022

There are lots of events planned over the next few weeks. If you know of other events in the pipeline or are a member of a community group that wants to let us know what you are planning, please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

## NOVEMBER

**Friday 11th Saturday 12th - St Ives Photographic Club Annual Exhibition**  
10am to 5pm (Friday), 9am to 1pm (Saturday) in St Ives Free Church.

**Saturday 12th November - St Ives Choral Society Concert** – Ein Deutsches Requiem  
at 7.30pm, St Ives Free Church. Tickets from the Fair Trade shop: Adults £15 and £12  
(concessions), accompanied children under 16 free.

**Monday 14th - The Snowman Festival** - Snowmen begin to appear in the shops.

**Sat 19th Sun 20th - St Ives Christmas Market** - Lights switch-on Saturday 5pm.

**Saturday 19th - Snowman Trail begins** - Collect Trail Maps from shops

**Friday 25th COSI Lunchtime concert - Ermine Streets Winds** - a French programme at  
1pm in St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 25th Saturday 26th - Huntingdonshire Art Group Annual Exhibition** 10am to  
4pm in St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 25th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** - Featuring Four Winds Saxophone  
Quartet performing music from Bach to Gershwin. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from The Riverport Café Bar.

**Saturday 26th - Saints Crafters Christmas Fair** - St Ives Corn Exchange 9.30am - 3.30pm.

**Sunday 27th - Hemingford Ladies Choir - Music for an Autumn Afternoon**  
3pm in St Ives Free Church.

## DECEMBER

**Saturday 3 - Santa & Chief Snowman arrive at The Quay** 1 pm. Santa will then be in his  
Grotto at St Ives Corn Exchange from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. Also on Sat 3rd, Sun 4th, Sat 10th, Sun  
11th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th. It's FREE and every child receives a gift.

**Saturday 3rd - Art & Craft Fair** - Free Church Hall, 9.30am - 3.30pm Free Admission.  
Buy original & handmade direct from the maker... Textiles, greeting cards, jewellery, bead &  
button work, bound books, and much more... Tombola in aid of Hunts Society for the Blind

**Sat 3rd Sun 4th - Nativity Sets from Around the World Exhibition** 10am to 4pm  
(Saturday) 12:30pm to 3pm (Sunday) in the Free Church.

**Saturday 17th - Snowman Trail Maps to be handed in** by 4pm to participating shops.

**Monday 19th - Snowman Festival Trail Draw** takes place along with the awards for the  
best Snowman Displays.

CUT OUT AND KEEP



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## A Royal Ballet special THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

2:30pm Sunday  
13 November 2022

Choreographer: Marius Petipa  
2h 12m with interval  
Tickets: £10



## THE OUTFIT

7:30pm Thursday  
1 December 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski  
1h 45m, Cert: 15  
Tickets: £5



## TOP GUN: MAVERICK

7:30pm Thursday  
17 November 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski  
2h 10m, Cert: 12  
Tickets: £5



## THE RAILWAY CHILDREN RETURN

7:30pm Thursday  
15 December 2022

Director: Morgan Matthews, 1h  
39m, Cert: PG  
Tickets: £5

Tickets from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange. Doors open 1 hour before screening.